

What is claimed is:

1. A vitreoretinal instrument, comprising:

a handle; and

a probe coupled to said handle comprising a curved distal portion made from a flexible plastic, said curved distal portion having a closed tip with a smooth surface capable of safely touching the retina.

2. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said curved portion comprises a smooth ventral surface capable of safely touching the retina.

3. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said curved portion comprises a smooth dorsal surface capable of safely touching the retina.

4. The instrument of claim 1 further comprising an optical fiber disposed in said handle and said curved portion, and wherein said curved portion is capable of transmitting light from said optical fiber to an interior of said eye.

5. The instrument of claim 4 wherein said curved portion is made from a light transmitting plastic.

6. The instrument of claim 4 wherein said curved portion comprises a window made from a light transmitting plastic.

7. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said curved portion has a radius of curvature substantially equal to a radius of curvature of a human eye.

8. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said closed tip has a convex surface.

9. A vitreoretinal instrument, comprising:

a handle; and

a probe coupled to said handle comprising a curved distal portion made from a flexible plastic, said curved distal portion having a smooth dorsal surface capable of safely touching the retina.

10. A vitreoretinal instrument, comprising:

5 a handle; and

a probe coupled to said handle comprising a curved distal portion made from a flexible plastic, said curved distal portion having a smooth ventral surface capable of safely touching the retina.

10 11. A method of displacing subretinal fluid from a space between a retinal detachment or a retinal tear and a choroid of an eye, comprising the steps of:

providing an vitreoretinal instrument, comprising:

a handle; and

15 a probe coupled to said handle comprising a curved distal portion made from a flexible plastic, said curved distal portion having a smooth dorsal surface capable of safely touching the retina;

grasping said handle;

disposing said probe within a vitreous cavity of said eye above said retinal detachment or retinal tear with said dorsal surface proximate an inner surface of said retina; and

20 moving said handle so that said dorsal surface contacts said inner surface of said retina and displaces subretinal fluid.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said probe comprises an optical fiber disposed in said handle and said curved portion, and further comprising the step of transmitting light from said optical fiber and said curved portion to an interior of said eye.